## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

Applicant:

Patricia Preikschat et al.

Serial No.:

09/171,558

Art Unit: 1775

Filed:

March 29, 1999

Title:

CHROMIUM(VI)-FREE CONVERSION LAYER

AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT

Docket No.:

31716

## THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Non-Fee Amendment Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please further amend without prejudice the application prior to its examination as follows.

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 1 insert centered --<u>Description</u>--;
after line 2 delete "<u>BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION</u>
Field of the Invention";

lines 4-5 after "layers" insert --according to claim 1--;

lines 5-6 change ", and a passivation solution." into --according to claim 7, a concentrate according to claim 10, a passivation--;

lines 6-8 before "bath" delete "solution"; and after line 8, restore whatever material was deleted, if any, via the Preliminary Amendment dated March 24, 1999, and delete "Description of the Background".

Page 5, lines 16 and 30 change "US 4,384,902" into --US 43 84 902--;

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

John P. Murtaugh
Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date

Signature of Attorney

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